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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6683
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7809
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 2759

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000264

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STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

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TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA: IRAN, DETENTION OF
UK SAILORS; SAO PAULO

"Tehran's Trials"

Liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (4/2) editorialized: "In scenes that evoke Moscow's notorious trials, British sailors and marines captured by Iran were exhibited making 'confessions' that are as real as a three-dollar bill. If Iran had any standing in the dispute with the UK, it lost it by subjecting the prisoners to degrading treatment that contradicts the Geneva Convention. The Iranian behavior exhales a smell of farce.... Everything indicates that in view of the gradually tougher isolation of its regime and the increasing U.S. pressure, Tehran has decided to harden its position. It did not have much to lose. The imprisonment of the Brits would create a new fact. And their liberation could always be used as a trump card.... For those optimists, the episode is a signal that the UN pressure on Tehran is working and must be kept and even reinforced."
McMullen